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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of: **SUGIYAMA, Kazuhiko, et al.**

Group Art Unit: **3679**

Serial No.: **10/506,671**

Examiner: **Not Yet Assigned**

Filed: **April 7, 2005**

P.T.O. Confirmation No.: **5308**

For: **PIPE JOINT**

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
PURSUANT TO 37 CFR 1.97(b)

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

February 21, 2006

Sir:

The attention of the Patent and Trademark Office is hereby directed to the documents listed on the attached Form PTO-1449. One copy of each of these documents is attached.

No fee or certification is required in connection with this Information Disclosure Statement, since it is being submitted prior to the issuance of a first official action on the merits or expiration of the three month period following the filing date or the entry of the national stage of the above-captioned application.

The above information is presented so that the Patent and Trademark Office can, in the first instance, determine any materiality thereof to the claimed invention. It is respectfully requested that the information be expressly considered during the prosecution of this application, and that the documents cited in the attached Form PTO-1449 be made of record therein and appear on the first page of any patent to issue therefrom.



The Commissioner is authorized to charge our Deposit Account No. 01-2340 for any fee which is deemed by the Patent and Trademark Office to be required to effect consideration of this statement.

Respectfully submitted,

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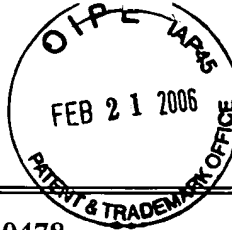
MRQ/lrj
Atty. Docket No. **040478**
Suite 1000
1725 K Street, N.W.
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PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE

Enclosures: PTO-1449, References (9) and Supplementary European Search Report dated 1/23/06.



INFORMATION DISCLOSURE CITATION PTO-1449	Atty. Docket No. 040478	Serial No. 10/506,671
	Applicant(s): SUGIYAMA, Kazuhiko, et al.	
	Filing Date: April 7, 2005	Group Art Unit: 3679

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initial		Document No.	Name	Date	Class	Subclass	Filing Date (If appropriate)
_____	AA	5,829,796	Robinson	11/3/98	285	288.1	
_____	AB	5,645,301	Kinsford et al.	7/8/97	285	14	
_____	AC	5,714,062	Winkler et al.	2/3/98	210	220	

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

		Document No.	Date	Country	Translation (Yes or No)
_____	AD	EP 0 396 151 A2	11/7/1990	Europe	No
_____	AE	EP 0 392 901 A1	10/17/1990	Europe	No
_____	AF	DE 63 526 C	08/28/1892	Germany	No
_____	AG	DE 90 11 722 U1	10/31/1990	Germany	No
_____	AH	GB 745 847 A	03/07/1956	Great Britain	Yes
_____	AI	FR 2 217 625 A	09/06/1974	France	No

OTHER DOCUMENTS

_____	AJ	Supplementary European Search Report dated 1/23/06.
Examiner		Date Considered